

County hires emergency management director

Gibbs served in Multnomah County

By ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian



Justin Gibbs

Clatsop County has hired an emergency management director.

Justin Gibbs recently served as interim division chief of planning at Multnomah County's Emergency Management Planning Section.

At Clatsop County, he will be responsible for leading emergency management — a new county department that until recently was a county office.

Earlier this year, the county said the director position would be funded by money shifted from an emergency management coordinator role, a long-vacant job.

Housed at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, the county's emergency management responds to floods, fires, windstorms and other natural hazards and disasters, often collaborating with local jurisdictions and organizations, such as cities, schools and fire districts.

During the coronavirus pandemic, emergency management helped distribute personal protective equipment and played a role in setting up mass vaccination clinics, the county said.

The department also prepares the region for the looming Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami.

"My focus will be to develop strong relationships with the cities to ensure they are supported across all phases of emergency management, as well as concurrently making sure that Clatsop County is operation-

ally ready to respond to disasters that will inevitably impact unincorporated areas of the jurisdiction," Gibbs said in a statement.

Gibbs hails from North Carolina. At Hyde County, he served as emergency services director after working as a 911 database administrator, the county said.

"His tenure included response to multiple hurricanes, storms and wildfires, as well as an assignment to Puerto Rico as a planning section chief for the Hurricane Maria response in 2017," the county wrote.

Tiffany Brown, who manages and directs the Emergency Operations Center, reports to Gibbs.

The idea of turning emergency management into a director-led department has been contemplated for about a dozen years. Emergency management, a statutorily required agency, left the purview of the sheriff's office to the county manager's office in 2010.

"Having been born and raised on the coast of North Carolina, I very much feel at home," Gibbs said in a statement. "I look forward to learning, growing and becoming a member of the community and serving its members with integrity."

Suspect sought in Seaside gun incident

Victim hospitalized after shooting

Seaside Signal

Police are seeking the whereabouts of Jeremy Lee Morinville, a 24-year-old Warrenton man considered a suspect in a Seaside gun incident.

At about 2:45 p.m. on Sunday, Seaside police received a report that a gunshot wound victim was being treated at

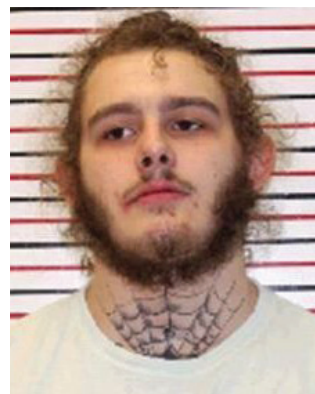
Providence Seaside Hospital. The victim had been shot at his home and drove to the hospital for treatment, police said. Injuries were described as non-life-threatening and the victim was taken to Portland for continuing care.

The victim and suspect are known to each other, police said, and police do not believe it was a random encounter.

Police said Morinville, who was recently released from prison, should be considered armed and dangerous.

On Monday, Morinville remained at-large. The search remains active and ongoing.

Anyone with information on Morinville's whereabouts is asked to call 911 or to contact Sgt. Detective Josh Gregory of the Seaside Police Department at 503-738-6311.



Jeremy Morinville in a 2019 booking photo.



Seaside Fire

Clatsop County Task Force 20 responded to the Rum Creek Fire in Josephine County on Aug. 27.

Local crew responds to Rum Creek fire

Seaside Signal

Saturday afternoon, Clatsop County's Task Force 20 was deployed to the Rum Creek Fire, Seaside Chief Joey Daniels said. Division Chief David Rankin is task force leader along with

Gearhart Fire Chief Josh Como as assistant task force leader.

The team assembled after Gov. Kate Brown declared a conflagration for the fire,

clearing the way for the state fire marshal to mobilize firefighters and equipment to assist local teams battling the fire.

At about 4:30 p.m., Sea-

side sent one brush truck and three firefighters total. Cannon Beach, Lewis and Clark, Astoria and Knappa fire departments also sent personnel and equipment.



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